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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,899	12/26/2001	Makoto Akizuki	2001-1897	9191

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

PIANALTO, BERNARD D

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1762

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/025,899	AKIZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Bernard D Pianalto	1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al in view of Asaba et al. or vice versa. The Yamamoto et al reference discloses in col. 3, lines 50-60, col. 5 lines 1-30, col. 11, lines 35-60 and col. 14, lines 1-20 a method of coating comprising jetting a composition comprising a mixture of a pressurized gas and reactive material, which can be a liquid, through a fine hole to form clusters of molecules and atoms which are then ionized using electrons to form a coating on to a substrate. The Yamamoto et al reference does not disclose that the liquid may be a liquid at normal temperature and pressure. Asaba et al discloses in the abstract and col. 6, lines 1-10 an organic metal compound which is a liquid at normal temperature and pressure used in vapor deposition. It is the examiners opinion that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to substitute the mixture of starting gas liquid and carrier gas of Asaba et al for the liquid and gas of Yanamoto et al in order to form clusters of an organic metal compound and resulting coating. It is also the examiner's opinion that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to form clusters and a coating in the Asaba et al vapor deposition process by jetting the

gases through a fine hole as suggested by Yamamoto et al since Yamamoto et al discloses that a coating of good uniformity can be realized. It is also the examiner's opinion that the limitations of the dependent claims are conventional and do not render these claims unobvious. See Nogami et al, Example 11, for tetraisopropoxytitanium used in a coating process and Ito, the abstract, for accelerating electrodes for controlling ion acceleration.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard D Pianalto whose telephone number is 703 308 2332. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30-6:00 Mon-Wed.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P Beck can be reached on 703 308 2333. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9310 for regular communications and 703 872 9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 306 5665.

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February 20, 2003


BERNARD PIANALTO
PRIMARY EXAMINER